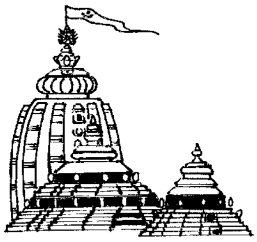

A Ratha Yatra Song

The Medieval Poet Yadu Das

gaura he!
caudike mahānta meli karaye kīrtana-keli
sāta sampradāya gāya gīta
bāje caturdaśa khola gagana bhedila rola
dekhi jagannātha ānandita

From the four directions the great souls assemble and enjoy pastimes of *kīrtana*. Together they sing many songs. From the four directions the sounds of fourteen *kholas* seem to break the sky. Gazing at Lord Jagannath, everyone is filled with bliss.

gaura he!
unamata nityānanda ācārya adwaitacandra
paṇḍita śrībāsa haridāsa
e sabhāre saṅge kari mājhe nāce gaura-hari
bhakata-maṇḍala cāri-pāśa

Lord Nityananda, Lord Adwaitachandra Acharya, Srivas Pandit, and Haridas Thakur are wild with bliss. In the midst of a circle of devotees, Lord Gaurahari dances.

gaura he!
hari hari bola bole pada-bhare mahī dole
nayāne bahaye jala-dhāra
premera taraṅga raṅga sumeru jiniyā aṅga
tāhe aṣṭa sāttwika bikāra

Lord Gaurahari chants, "Hari! Haribol!" His dancing footsteps make the earth tremble. A flood of tears streams from his eyes. He plays in the waves of ecstatic spiritual love. His glorious body defeats golden Mount Sumeru. He manifests the eight *sāttvika-bhāva* ecstasies.

gaura he!
bhābābeśe gaura rāya nācite nācite yāya
dhīre dhīre cale jagannātha
ānanda bismaya mana dekhi prema-saṅkīratana
nija parikara-gaṇa sātha

Filled with ecstasy, Lord Gaura dances and dances as he walks. Slowly slowly Lord Jagannath travels in his *ratha*. Seeing Lord Gaurahari enjoy pastimes of *prema-kīrtana* with his personal associates, every person feels his heart filled with bliss and wonder.

dūre gela dukha śoka premāya bhāsila loka
sthābara jaṅgama paśu pākhī
ye prema-bilāsa dhāma yadu kahe anupāma
ye dekhila se-i tāra sākhī

Suffering and sadness have fled far away. Every moving and unmoving being, including even the birds and beasts, are floating in an ocean of ecstatic love. Yadu Das says: These pastimes of *prema* have no peer. Anyone who sees them will bear witness to this truth.